



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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Bills to ban Internet hunting go to full Senate

LANSING – Legislation to ban the practice of computer-assisted remote hunting was approved Tuesday by the Senate Natural Resources Committee, announced Sen. Michelle McManus, sponsor of Senate Bill 373.

“Internet hunting violates every standard of hunting and degrades it by creating a point-and-click videogame in cyberspace,” said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. “Such activity does an injustice to Michigan’s rich hunting heritage.”

The three-bill package would make it illegal for an individual to hunt using a computer to remotely control a firearm or crossbow or to operate a facility offering such an opportunity.

“The Internet has made it easier and more convenient to do many things, but hunting shouldn’t be one of them,” said Rep. Glenn Steil, R-Cascade Township, sponsor of House Bill 4465. “This legislation is important to maintain the integrity of wild game hunting in Michigan.”

The legislation also establishes penalties for violators of the proposed legislation. First-time offenders would be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to 93 days, a fine of up to \$500, or both. Subsequent violations would be a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for up to one year, a maximum fine of \$1,000, or both.

“Michigan hunters take our sport seriously,” said Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, sponsor of Senate Bill 620. “Activities like this are a disgrace to those of us who proudly call ourselves sportsmen.”

The bills now go before the full Senate.

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